

The FCC exists to protect the public's interest. It clearly is in that interest to have a multiplicity of services providing information of local importance. XM Satellite Radio fills that bill by providing local traffic and weather information.

XM clearly is not infringing on broadcasters' rights. Its service is not broadcast only to specific markets. It's available nationwide. If I wish to listen to the weather forecast for Pittsburgh or Los Angeles, I'm free to do so, even though I don't live in those communities. (And, I should say, I have done so.) Why should the petitioners be allowed to shut down this source of information? They clearly should not be.

Local telecasters have not been granted the power to dismantle the Weather Channel, even though it provides tightly focused local forecasts that indeed are available only within specific markets. Should a broader service that is transmitted nationwide be turned off? Of course not.

This, of course, is merely a blatant power play by terrestrial broadcasters who are afraid of the free market. They should get over their fears and concentrate instead on providing better programming, instead of the bland, commercial-saturated dreck that they currently offer.